00256

1955/04/27

Form FS-412
Le-van-Tan - 53.453

TOP SECRET

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

NIACT

NO DISTRIBUTION

FROM : DEPARTMENT DATE : APRIL 27, 1955 1800

No. : 4757

CLASSIFICATION : ~~TOP SECRET~~ RECEIVED : APRIL 28, 1225

typed: APR 28, 1545

NIACT SENT SAIGON 4757 PRITY PARIS 3829

TOP SECRET

NIACT

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

If the French agree to para 7 Department telegram 4756 then you may give them orally the following views on procedures and a new government. Our views are based on consultations with General Collins, a careful study of the French Aide-memoire of April 17, Bao Dai's proposals, and the views of various Vietnamese in Saigon.

A. Our tentative proposals on procedures are as follows;

1). The US will have to maintain position of full support for Diem until and unless Vietnamese leaders develop alternate proposal which Bao Dai would support.

2). Bao Dai should be informed by both governments that before we would consider support for any change he must guarantee that he will confirm Prime Minister's authority over police officials, the Binh Xuyen will be removed from police functions, and surete, and that the Sects will agree to a broad program of their integration into the national life of Vietnam on the basis of "A ~~xigx~~ single nation, a single state, a single army, and a single administration". Such decree by Bao Dai must be in process before Diem leaves and new Prime Minister installed, to prevent clear Binh

By NLE Date 7-7-75

Xuyen "victory" over Diem ~~xxxx~~ would _____ successor;

3). If Bao Dai ~~xxx~~ gives adequate assurances, Collins and Ely should immediately help the Vietnamese work out the new alignment, urge Diem to serve in a new capacity, if he will, and provide full support for the new government. If Diem refuses, the program should nevertheless be carried out anyway.

4). While the Vietnamese in Saigon should be the framers of a new government, Collins and Ely will probably have to be in practice the catalysts. This may result in stories regarding a new Collins-Ely "formula" but we should make every attempt to keep the Vietnamese label.

5). General Collins and Ely should inform Diem that as a result of his inability to create a broadly based coalition government, and because of Vietnamese resistance to him, then governments are no longer in positions to attempt to prevent his removal from office. Diem's patriotic qualities are of great potential value to Vietnam and it is hoped he will lend his services to any new government which might be appointed.

6). Collins and Ely together speaking for their governments may be able to elicit formula outlined sub-para 4 above from Vietnamese political leaders behind the scenes. If those leaders, including Diem if practicable, adopt such a formula, they could ask Bao Dai to countersign it, if the Vietnamese consulted cannot agree among themselves on a candidate, then Ely and Collins will have to recommend a name for Bao Dai to designate to form a new government under the proper terms and conditions.

B. Our tentative proposals re a new government are as follows:

1). Cabinet: The executive authority of full powers with Do or Quat as president and vice president, respectively, composed of small nucleus

of most able nationalist leaders. It would be highly desirable if the cabinet itself could include some from Diem's cabinet and some new faces. It would operate as an interim coalition government until a fully elected national assembly is constituted. The immediate tasks of the new cabinet would be (a) resolution of Sect problem, (b) completion of reform of the armed forces and police, (c) satisfactory resettlement of present and future refugees, (d) energetic political program in provinces, (e) more active international policy in Southeast Asia, and (f) consultation with the Viet Minh on Geneva elections in 1956 and preparations for elections and a constituent assembly in free Vietnam at some time.

2) Consultative council: An advisory body of some leading personalities and group representatives, including the Sects, Diem should be persuaded if possible to accept the chairmanship of this council. Its principal function would be to generate spirit of unity and cooperation among the people and groups throughout free Vietnam. At the request of the president or the cabinet, it would advise the president and cabinet on major matters of state. It should have no executive or administrative function. It should continue until the constitution of a permanent structure of government by a constituent assembly.

3). Provisional national assembly: This legeslative body of elected and appointed candidates already envisaged and scheduled to be set up should be formed and convoked as soon as possible once a new cabinet is in office. It would review budget and designate a special committee to draft plans for a constituent assembly.

DULLES

2 copies/bell